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Sound Basis of Western Prosperity

Striking evidence of the sound condition of the farmers and stockmen in the territory tributary to Omaha is found in the record of recent live stock sales that have been held in the country west of Chicago. While eastern bankers, brokers and financial men have been trimming sails to meet adverse winds, the farmers of the west have been investing more money than ever before in fine stock, planning to improve their breeds and making investments for future betterments. The hog, cattle and horse sales that have been held since the middle of October have shown results in excess of those of a year ago. The buyers at these sales have been farmers and the purchases have been made for breeding purposes. While the heavy run of light hogs and cattle at stock yards points has forced down the prices of market stock, the farmers, while closing out their feed stock, are buying breed stock and making graded preparations for the next year's work. Just a few instances:

On January 3, M. D. Shutt sold sixty-six head of Percheron horses at Rock Rapids, Ia.—thirty-two stallions and thirty-four brood mares—at an average of \$406.50 per head, several of them going for as high as \$1,300 each. The buyers nearly all paid cash.

A breeder at Holbrook, Ia., has paid \$3,000 for a half interest in Home Run, a prize boar.

Twenty-four sows, bred to thoroughbred stock, sold at the Iowa State fair for \$162.50 each. Forty-five head of another bunch sold for \$117.50 each. Fifty-two head of Poland-China hogs sold at Gardiner, Ill., for \$200 each and seventy head of the same breed were sold at Macy, Ind., at \$25 each.

At Clay Center, Neb., Claude McKelvie sold thirty-one sows for an average of \$55 each, several going for more than \$100 each. Sales at Fairfield and Clark, Neb., in the last week, show record prices for fancy breeding hogs, the sales running on more than 100 head, from \$46 to \$201 each.

Instances might be multiplied indefinitely of the fancy prices being paid by Nebraska and other western farmers for fine stock. Something like 500 of these sales are booked for the next two months in the Transmississippi region and a big attendance is assured at all of them. The farmers have the money and are hesitating at no outlet which promises to turn in a profit in the form of better stock for breeding and market purposes. They are not worrying a bit over the discount rate of the Bank of England or the price of stock on Wall Street. It would be foolish to say they have more money than they know what to do with. It is no exaggeration to say they have all they need for the present and enough to spare considerable for plans for the future. The prosperity of the farmer and the stock grower is one reason for the high standing Omaha holds in the business, financial and industrial ranks in the nation. It furnishes another argument for the future certain growth and greater development of Omaha, the Market Town.

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